

## Message Text

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R 231840Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5817

INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15133

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, CZ

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 13-16 VISIT OF CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN  
MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 13-16 VISIT TO LONDON BY CZECHOSLOVAK FONMIN CHNOUPEK WAS VIEWED BY BOTH SIDES PRIMARILY AS A SUCCESSFUL COSMETIC EXERCISE. IN ACCEPTING THE VISIT, HMG SIGNALLED NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH POST-1968 CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT, AND IN MAKING IT, CHNOUPEK HAS COMPLETED HIS CIRCUIT OF ALL EEC CAPITALS (EXCEPT DUBLIN). SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS DISCUSSED INCLUDED FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES AND VISA SIMPLIFICATION, BOTH WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT. INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF THE 1975 UK-CSSR CONSULAR AGREEMENT WERE EXCHANGED, AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE TABLED A DRAFT BILATERAL POLITICAL AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. FCO CZECHOSLOVAK DESK OFFICER (MILLINGTON) HAS GIVEN US BRIEFING ON SEPTEMBER 13-16 OFFICIAL VISIT TO LONDON OF CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK. ACCORDING TO MILLINGTON, HMG CONSIDERED VISIT AS PART OF ITS OVERALL EFFORT TOWARD GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT OF  
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RELATIONS WITH EE NATIONS AND SPECIFICALLY AS A SIGNAL

THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD BEEN RESTORED TO A "NORMAL" LEVEL. BRITISH BELIEVE THAT CSSR SIDE SAW THE VISIT IN A SIMILAR LIGHT, NOTING THAT CHNOUPEK COULD NOW CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY RECEIVED IN ALL THE EEC CAPITALS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DUBLIN.

3. CHNOUPEK MET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND FOR TWO HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 14 AND FOR AN ADDITIONAL HOUR ON SEPTEMBER 15. DURING HIS VISIT, CHNOUPEK ALSO SPOKE WITH FCO PARLIAMENTARY MINISTER OF STATE LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS, PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE SIR MICHAEL PALLISER, SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTER DAVID ENNALS, TRADE MINISTER EDMUND DELL, AND SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY REGINALD MAUDLING. CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT INCLUDED TRIPS TO COVENTRY (WHICH IS TWINNED WITH LIDICE AND OSTRAVA), THE BROOKWOOD MILITARY CEMETERY WHERE THERE ARE GRAVES OF CZECHOSLOVAK SERVICEMEN WHO FOUGHT WITH THE ALLIES DURING WWII, AND HIGHGATE CEMETERY WHERE KARL MARX IS BURIED.

4. IN THE FIRST BILATERAL SESSION WITH CHNOUPEK, CROSLAND STRESSED THE NECESSITY TO RESOLVE THE ELEVEN OUTSTANDING FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES INVOLVING THE UK AND THE CSSR, CITING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE SPECIFIC CASES WOULD BE REVIEWED AT THE WORKING LEVEL BETWEEN OFFICIAL NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. AT THE SECOND BILATERAL, CHNOUPEK SAID HE BELIEVED THAT EIGHT OF THE CASES COULD BE "POSITIVELY RESOLVED" AND NEEDED ONLY THE SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT HUSAK, WHICH CHNOUPEK UNDERTOOK TO SEEK ON HIS RETURN TO PRAGUE. (FCO REMAINS SKEPTICAL AND WILL KEEP THE CHAMPAGNE CORKED UNTIL THE EXIT VISAS ARE ACTUALLY ISSUED.)

5. STILL CITING THE CSCE FINAL ACT, UK SIDE PROPOSED RECIPROCAL VISA SIMPLIFICATION PROCEDURES, INCLUDING THE ISSUANCE TO RESPECTIVE DIPLOMATIC STAFFS OF MULTIPLE RE-ENTRY VISAS VALID FOR THE LENGTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S TOUR. CZECHOSLOVAKS ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, AND DETAILS ARE TO BE WORKED OUT.  
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6. INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF THE UK-CSSR CONSULAR CONVENTION WHICH WAS SIGNED IN PRAGUE IN APRIL 1975 BY GORONWY-ROBERTS AND RUZEK WERE EXCHANGED; IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINAL PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ITSELF, IT WILL THEREFORE ENTER INTO EFFECT IN THIRTY DAYS. (REQUEST DEPARTMENT AND PRAGUE ADVISE IF COPIES OF THE CONVENTION ARE DESIRED.)

7. AS HAS BEEN CZECHOSLOVAK PRACTICE IN RECENT YEARS WITH EEC INTERLOCUTORS, CHNOUPEK PROPOSED A BILATERAL POLITICAL AGREEMENT AND PRODUCED A DRAFT OF SUCH A PACT. BRITISH, WHO HAD EXPECTED SUCH A PROPOSAL,

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8. MULTILATERAL MATTERS DISCUSSED INCLUDED MBFR, THE MIDDLE EAST, UNITED NATIONS, AND CSCE, WITH BOTH SIDES REPEATING WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS.

9. PRIOR TO THE VISIT, CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD PRESENTED A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH BRITISH FOUND WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE. HMG PUT FORTH COUNTERDRAFT, CZECHOSLOVAKS QUICKLY GAVE IN, AND BRITISH DRAFT WAS ACCEPTED AS THE WORKING PAPER FROM WHICH THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS PREPARED. (COPIES OF THIS BLAND DOCUMENT ARE BEING POUCHED TO PRAGUE AND EUR/EE.)

10. FCO WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE RELIEVED TO NOTE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS APPARENTLY TOOK PRESS ATTACKS ON CHNOUPEK VISIT (BERNARD LEVIN ARTICLE CITED IN LONDON 14201 AND SIMILAR PIECES) IN THEIR STRIDE, MAKING NO FORMAL OBJECTION. FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE VISIT ITSELF WAS OBVIOUSLY THE MAIN ISSUE AT STAKE, AND THEY WERE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OF SUFFERING SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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